the school has not yet been opened There is great resentment among the people of that area Due to not starting the schools from the current academic year Therefore, the school may be started from this year itself

**(vi) Doubling of Sonarpur-Canning Railway Line and also to Improve the condition of Coaches on Sealdah-Canning Branch Line**

*[English]*

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) Sir the railway line from Sealdah to Canning on the Eastern Railway is said to be second oldest railway line built in the country Canning is the gateway to Sunderbans area, renowned for its unique flora and fauna and mangrove forests but it it poverty-ridden being no industry there and the local populace look to tourist traffic potential only There is at present a double line between Sealdah and ssonarpur I would suggest that the Sonarpur-Canning line which is only 25 kms may also be doubled during the Ninth Plan so as to boost tourist traffic and help these poor residents to sustain themselves Till such time as this is done I would also suggest the introduction of tokenless system on this section from Sonarpur to Canning which would very much help the tourists in saving their time in waiting for crossing of trains and improve the conditions of coaches on the Sealdah-Canning Branch Line and strengthen the existing arrangements in coaches so that the tourists both domestic and foreign are not handicapped by missing window shutters and proper seating arragements

**(vii) Need to bring Sambhalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundergarh Districts under the Jurisdiction of newly created East Coast Railway**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) Sir it is a matter of gratification that although late a new railway zone called the East Coast Railway has been created recently with its Headquarters at Bhubaneshwar yet a substantial portion of the State of Orissa under the industrial districts of Sambalpur Jharsuguda and Sundergarh along the Bombay-Howrah rail line has been kept out of it contrary to the expectations of the people Continuation of this area under the jurisdiction of the South Eastern Railway having Headquarters at Garden Reach Calcutta is not logical On this score there is mounting discontentment and resentment among the people in the said region

I therefore request the Minister of Railways to personally look into the matter and correct the situation without further delay

**17.11 hrs.**

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Drought Situation in Orissa

*[English]*

MR CHAIRMAN Now on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture Shri Srikanta Jena the hon Minister will make a statement on the situation caused by drought in Orissa

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) The Agriculture Minister is busy in the other House *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR M P JAISWAL (Bettiah) What happened to my matter under Rule 377?

MR CHAIRMAN You please meet Mr Speaker have read out the names as ordered by him

*[English]*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) The hon Minister is going to make a statement on the drought situation in Orissa My appeal to you Sir is that the Minister of Agriculture must be present in the House now

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA He is coming He is in the other House I will read out the statement and then you can participate In meantime he will come from there

MR CHAIRMAN When the discussion under Rule 193 regarding drought situation in Orissa takes place I hope the Minister of Agriculture will be present here

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA Yes Sir

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) In the meanwhile Delhi Development Bill can be taken up *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA No Sir It is not possible

Sir on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the drought situation in Orissa and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government Normally the monsoon season starts from early June and continues till the end of September in Orissa The annual rainfall in the State is 1482 mm In the current year the monsoon started late in some areas and was also scanty and erratic There was significant departure from the normal level in the months of July and September There has been a deficit of 24 per cent in the rainfall during the south-west monsoon According to the information furnished by the Government or Orissa on the basis of

visual estimates in 26 districts out of a total of 30 as many as 27 081 villages have suffered crop loss of 50 per cent and above This is as per the interim report that has been submitted by the Government of Orissa Some of the worst affected districts are Bolangir Kalahandi Nayagarh Naupada and Raigarh

**17.13 hrs.**

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee *in the Chair)*

The deficient and erratic rainfall and consequent moisture stress has led to an adverse effect on both paddy and non-paddy crops of Kharif 1996 Owing to low storage in the reservoirs of various major medium and minor irrigation projects even irrigated areas have not received adequate water supply The State Government has estimated that the loss in production will be 26 lakh tonnes valued at about Rs 991 crore The State Government has planned to take massive programmes of crop production during the Rabi season Employment will be provided to the people on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Employment Assurance Scheme works and other plan works so that the people have adequate income for purchase of foodgrains and other necessities of life

The State Government has estimated that about 364 mandays will be generated while giving wage employment to about 12 33 lakh people for eight months from November 1996 to June, 1997 The State Government has also planned to provide health cover to the affected people so that there is less chance of malnutrition and epidemics like diarrhoea A programme of increasing drinking water supply in rural and urban areas affected by drought and adding to lift irrigation and other minor irrigation sources to provide water for the Rabi crops has been planned

The State Government has a Calamity Relief Fund of Rs 49 01 crore of which the Central Government contributes 75 per cent in four quarterly instalments The Central Government has already released all the four instalments including the fourth instalment due otherwise on the 1st January 1997 in advance

In view of the situation arising from the drought in Orissa the Prime Minister himself visited the affected areas on the 14th November 1996 and met the State Chief Minister and the representatives of the people Following the visit of the Prime Minister an amount of Rs 30 crore has been released for poverty alleviation and employment generation purposes An amount of Rs 8 crore has been released for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

A Central Team had visited Orissa from the 17th to 20th November to make an assessment of the drought situation and recommended assistance for the Government of Orissa The report of the Team will be available soon After that I had visited Orissa to take stock of the situation I visited Bolangir district and had discussions with leaders of the political parties and officials I assured the State Government that all possible assistance would be provided to the State to tackle the situation

SHRI JAG MOHAN Madam I suggest that we could take up the Delhi Development (Amendment) Bill because they have requested that the hon Minister of Agriculture should be here before the discussion starts

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA You can start the discussion now

SHRI JAG MOHAN It is a minor Bill It will take 10 to 15 minutes They also agree to let the hon Minister move the Bill We can finalise it In fact this is listed earlier as item No 12

MR CHAIRMAN I think, actually the discussion would have started by now Because of Matters under Rule 377 is was left out So I do not think that another item should intervene between the statement which has been read out and the discussion that will take place Naturally till the Minister of Agriculture comes he will take notes

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA He will be coming now I have sent the information

MR CHAIRMAN The Minister of Agriculture will be coming in five minutes In the meantime he will take notes

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) Madam to give justice to Orissa I would request that the discussion should be taken up in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture The Minister of Agriculture himself has confessed that the calamity of Orissa is a very devastating one

MR CHAIRMAN All of you do not stand up please

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) Madam we are sitting down But our request is to kindly ensure the presence of the Prime Minister here in the House *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN You will have to sit

*(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN Nothing goes on record

*(Interruptions)**

MR CHAIRMAN Kindly take your seat

The point is that the Minister of Agriculture is in the other House He will be coming immediately

As far as the Prime Minister is concerned he will also be coming This is the position

Just a few minutes earlier all of you agreed to let the discussion start

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* Not Recorded

SOME HON MEMBERS No no

MR CHAIRMAN Shri Bhakta Charan Das also got up That was the position Now suddenly it seems that he has changed his mind Shall we be in a vacuum in-between?

SHRI JAG MOHAN With the permission of the House, the other business could be taken up

MR CHAIRMAN I am asking the opinion Shall we be in a vacuum?

SOME HON MEMBERS Yes

MR CHAIRMAN If we take up the Delhi Development (Amendment) Bill then this Bill will go on

SHRI JAG MOHAN Madam it would not take more than half an hour *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN Today it seems that the House is not going to sit beyond six o clock

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA Madam that is why I am suggesting that the hon Members who have moved this Motion may start the discussion In any case the discussion would continue till tomorrow The Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture would be present and they would be replying to the debate Therefore let the discussion be started *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) Madam there has been unprecedented drought in the State of Orissa Out of 30 districts 26 have been seriously affected by drought The Minister of Agriculture Shri Chaturanan Mishra has already visited the drought-affected areas and has declared this as a national calamity I would definitely like to thank the hon Minister of Agriculture for his kind statement and for having visited the drought-affected areas I would also like to thank the hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for having visited the area

Madam yesterday we listened to the speeches made on the situation arising out of the flood situation on account of the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh We have seen the involvement of the Members of Parliament in that discussion Now in this case if the hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture are not here the discussion cannot go on like this Is it the kind of seriousness that we are showing towards this drought situation? The seriousness would not get expressed without the presence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture

Madam I strongly demand that before we start the discussion the hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture should be present in this House

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK Madam we are going to discuss as to how serious the situation is on account of the drought So, our report is that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture should be present here in this House

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS Madam, there is no water in the villages *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN I took your opinion just know as to what we should do Should we sink to something else? You said no Then I asked if we should be in a vacuum After seeking your opinion only I have called your name

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK Madam, according to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture was just about to come *(Interruptions)* But five minutes are already over They have not reached here *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS Sir the hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is from our own State *(Interruptions)* We do not like to embarrass him *(Interruptions)* He is also affected *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI Madam with due regard to the seriousness and importance of the subject it is very necessary that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture should sit through the debate This is our earnest request *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK We want that the Prime Minister should be here and then only will we start the discussion

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA The time allotted for this subject is just half an hour That is woefully inadequate *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI There is no time-limit

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA This is an issue of unparalleled importance

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI This debate will go on till the list of speakers is exhausted *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA Madam since the hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Jena is a colleague of ours we would suggest that tomorrow ideally it could be the first item on the agenda that is after the Zero Hour The hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture could have a good lunch come here and then listen to us with some degree of patience and we could have our say for a couple of hours

MR CHAIRMAN Shri Jena kindly see the matter

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA Sir the Minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister both of them are in the Rajya Sabha They are busy replying to the debate on the flood situation in Andhra Pradesh and I hope that the Minister of Agriculture would be coming here

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI We appreciate that

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA The whole problem is that we have only half an hour today In any case we are going to discuss this tomorrow itself

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS Sir this issue of drought cannot wait like this This is Lok Sabha

MR CHAIRMAN We have respect both for our House as well as for the other House

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI We appreciate the fact that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture have to be present in the other House but at the same time you should also respect our feelings

MR CHAIRMAN When I am standing you should not get up Now you can go on

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI If you want me to go on I will continue We are all Members of Parliament You are also a Member of Parliament but you are performing some duty by sitting in the Chair You must appreciate the position and should respect the feelings of the hon Members Drought flood are the perpetual phenomena A famine like situation is there We are grateful to the hon Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture They have visited the affected areas We do not want to equate the situation with Andhra Pradesh What had happened yesterday? We do not want to undermine any calamity Mr Jena has said that the Agriculture Minister is expected at any time It is going to be 1730 hours If they will take some time to come here I suggest let Delhi Bill be taken up and finished by 6 00 o clock and let this be the first item to be taken up tomorrow immediately after the Question Hour

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK We would like to discuss it in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA The Prime Minister has gone on record

MR CHAIRMAN I have heard you Now I would like to know the Government s position

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) I fully appreciate the sentiments of Members This is the first time that a Minister from Orissa has been temporarily given the charge of the Agriculture Minister He has made a Statement also on behalf of the Agriculture Minister If you postpone it now you will be setting a bad precedent Let him speak Madam Will it not be setting a bad precedent that for every speech the Prime Minister has to be present in the House? If Mr Jena can ensure it we have no objection Therefore the alternative could be let Mr Bhakta speak for more than half-an-hour and let him continue tomorrow also He can tell important points tomorrow in the presence of the Prime Minister

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) The Minister of Agriculture is coming to the House within five minutes

*[Translation]*

SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI (Raigarh) Mr Chairman Sir I am also of the view that in such a situation and keeping in view the seriousness of this national calamity the hon ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture should be present here This problem is not a new but it is a perpetual phenomena Therefore keeping in view the gravity of the situation we want to discuss on it This is not the problem of any particular State *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) There is no foodgrain to eat due to which lakhs of people have left their houses and gone to other places *(Interruptions)* What is the need to discuss it here today?

*[English]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN The Minister of Agriculture is coming to the House within five minutes

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK Sir the Prime Minister should be present in the House

*[Translation]*

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) Mr Chairman Sir a severe drought has hit that area and people are dying of starvation It is very serious problem *(Interruptions)* The seriousness of the situation should be understood Therefore it is necessary that the hon ble Minister of Agriculture should come in this House

*[English]*

MR CHAIRMAN Now that the Minister of Agriculture has come and the Whip of the Congress Party has also made a suggestion let us allow Mr Bhakta to speak He can continue his speech tomorrow also This was the suggestion given by Mr Dev Some other Members suggested something else but we have to take a decision

So let us continue with the discussion till 6 p m This can again be taken up tomorrow when everybody is expected to be present in the House

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) Mr Chairman Sir please ask the Prime Minister to be present in the House *(Interruptions)* When the hon ble Minister of Agriculture had visited that area he had said in his press statement that the situation in Orissa was more dangerous as compared to Andhra Pradesh *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

This issue deserves a better treatment

*[Translation]*

MR CHAIRMAN It has already been covered Please do not speak like this

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY The Minister had expressed his feeling that the situation in Orissa is more serious than Andhra Pradesh

*[English]*

He himself has said that the situation in Orissa is worse than that of Andhra Pradesh

*[Translation]*

MR CHAIRMAN The Minister should himself tell as to whatever feelings he had expressed there Please let him speak what for he is present here

*[English]*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY Madam the point is former Prime Minister had promissed Rs 4 000 crore for that place *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN The Minister has not yielded

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) If they insist I would like to say something in this regard with your permission Cyclone and drought are two different phenomena

In the case of cyclone if funds are released people can be settled within 2 3 months but in the case of drought situation is different because farmers will consume their produce by November and in the month of January nothing will remain In this connection the State Government has said that foodgrains would be required for 40 lakhs people there But our estimate is higher than that because the State Government has not included the category of middle class people in it I agree that all are suffered in such a situation but we should not fix any criteria according to area of land they are holding Everyone will agree with that but you should not say that you are undermining Andhra Pradesh or Orissa

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY We only want that the hon ble Prime Minister should be present in the House as the matter is very important The Prime Minister had promissed to provide Rs 4000 crore for that but perhaps he has forgotten it now Therefore it is necessary that he should come in the House and assure that Rs 4 000 crore will be provided *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA It seems from the Hindi translation that here the situation is not like Andhra Pradesh *(Interruptions)* I have not said like this I have just said that if the amount meant for cyclone is spent people of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa will get a setback and relegated to the position where they stood at least five years back This is my assessment

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY It means that Bihar will be relegated to the position of 200-300 years back

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Please ask if you want to ask anything more and get this discussion finished today itself

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY We want the hon ble Prime Minister to be present in the House so that he can reply to our question

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA We are at your disposal and we have to attend the sittings of both the Houses Please do not compel me anymore keeping in mind my old age Otherwise fix the time for me to attend this House and the other House as well

*[English]*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY The Prime Minister should be present We can extend the discussion till tomorrow

MR CHAIRMAN Bhakta Charan Dasji please start

**17 33 hrs**

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Drought Situation in Orissa

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS I was thanking the hon Minister of Agriculture for his visit to Orissa The drought situation is very serious in the State As I have already said out of 30 Districts of Orissa 25 Districts are affected by the drought While the normal rainfall required in the month of July is 351 6 millimetres there has been only 252 3 millimetres of rainfall in that month Similarly while the normal rainfall in August should be 335 6 millimetres the rainfall that occurred in that month was only 307 7 millimetres In the month of September a very important month for determining the position of crops - in stead of a normal rainfall of 236 5 millimetres the actual rainfall had been only 103 5 millimetres

The number of rainy days was 6 7 instead of 12 1 and in October the rainfall was only 51 6 mm having only [illegible] days instead of 131 6 mm normal rainfall and 6 1 [illegible] in the whole of Orissa In October the rainfall [illegible] ary meagre

The number o [illegible] ages affected by over 50 per cent drought is 27 081 and t e number of villages affected by more than 75 per cent is 13 664 As a whole 40 745